



MENS DIALOGUE

The Department prides itself in hosting events that benefit individuals and communities as a whole. It came as no surprise when non-profit organization, Brothers for Life in partnership with the Department of Social Development hosted Men's Dialogue in the popular township of Sasolburg, Zamdela.

This was an event especially created for men who wanted to make a difference in their communities. The purpose of the dialogue was to engage in topics that will help men voice out their issues as well as to source solutions on how to best deal with head pounding issues. The event started with Captain Ramatsebe of SAPS (South African Police Services) giving a holistic view of crime statistics in the Zamdela township.



The astonishing crime stats came to high of 139 cases reported from January 2015 till present. He further stated that the challenges that many communities face is that there are still low levels of abuse cases reported by men. 90% of men don't report cases of abuse due to shame and embarrassment from their communities.

The event attracted many high profile individuals within the Government sector with the guest speaker of the day, Pastor V Mfecane highlighting the importance of taking care of family as well as the children. The men in attendance took a pledge titled "NOT IN MY NAME" which was a commitment taken by the Men of Zamdela to act on the elimination of violence against women and children.

The MEC of Social Development, Me Sisi Ntombela thanked the speaker for affording the Department an opportunity to run the programme. She went through some of the issues the men raised at the Mens Dialogue, as sources of domestic violence in marriages and relationships. Some reasons were those of social networks and women earning more money, which results in disrespect from the woman's part. Some issues amongst others were loss of affection in relationships as well as wives treating them as mothers and not lovers.

Some of the pledges they took were as follows;

Not in their name they pledged:

Shall I contribute to the killing and abuse of women and children?

Rape of all kinds

Domestic violence of all kinds

To change our own attitudes and actions that perpetuate sexism and violence

To foster a culture of respect for women, persons with disabilities, children and other men and be role models to younger boys in communities

To play an active role in ridding the society of harmful practices such as forced marriages and trafficking of women and children.

They also committed to be “Men of Substance” which would help that become outstanding members of their communities.

The event proved to be successful and the MEC has requested for the programme to be run for both men and women across Municipalities so we can form a better understanding of all issues raised.

The MEC closed her speech with the following words” Let us not allow our kids to be hurt, women are also human beings who should be loved and not hurt”